

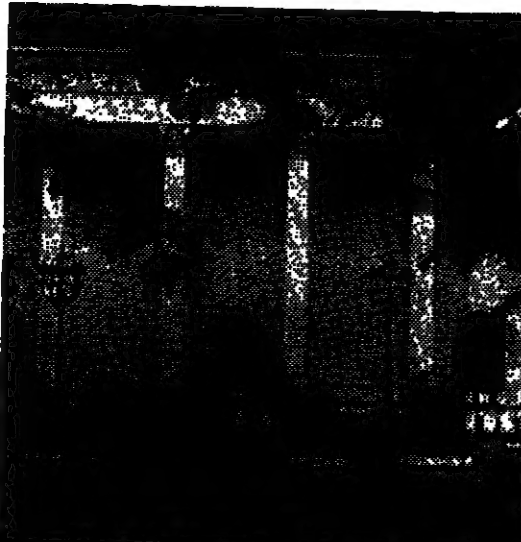


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The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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Hamburg, 14 October 1971
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Wretched financial system discussed in Washington

Representatives of 118 countries from the non-Communist world convened at the Washington Sheraton Park Hotel to discuss for a week the wretched condition of the international monetary system.

The old system is dead, many advocates of reform crowed, but the cry "Long live the new system" did not follow. Only the vague outlines of the new system are apparent.

Not even optimists feel it will emerge in black and white within a year. Both politicians and monetary experts will spend years working out the details, though of course a majority of countries have indicated the direction developments can be expected to take.

Whatever happens fixed exchange rates, the basis of the old system, are to be retained, but with greater leeway in terms of both band-width and moderate de- and revaluations.

In order to ease the strain on the United States as a reserve currency country the system is to be made more independent of the dollar and the links between the dollar and gold further severed.

Gold is to decline in significance for the international monetary system. Its place will increasingly be taken by "paper money".

The crisis began with what in retrospect would appear to have been a relatively harmless move, the floating of a number of currencies. It now amounts to a struggle for political power giving rise to anxiety lest reasonable attempts to reach an economic solution come to grief.

The political tumult was caused by the United States, which viewed the European exchange-rate moves as a further attack on the battered prestige of the dollar.

In view, moreover, of economic difficulties at home President Nixon decided to take drastic action and on 15 August announced details of a package designed to attract voters at home and bridge the balance-of-payments gap.

Above all Mr Nixon's moves bore witness in no uncertain terms to America's claim to leadership as the strongest Western power even though the United States might at present be in the throes of an economic crisis.

Many IMF delegates were unhappy in Washington about the tribute the United States demanded, but the gathering of monetary and financial specialists was fair enough to concede that American deficit spending, now made out to be a cardinal sin, used to be considered an American virtue.

Assurances of assistance from all sides in sharing the American burden and cutting back the US balance-of-payments deficit were thus more than a mere submission to reality. They represented an admission of partial responsibility for the present situation resulting from inflationary policies.

Talks on burden-sharing and realignment of exchange rates are now a joint item on the agenda. On the sidelines, as it were, the Group of Ten, consisting of the countries backing the major Western currencies, and the Finance Ministers of



New CDU chairman elected

Rainer Barzel, 47, (left), being congratulated on his election to the chairmanship of the CDU by his defeated opponent, Helmut Kohl, 41. A decisive 244 votes were cast for Herr Barzel and 174 for Herr Kohl. On the extreme right Ludwig Erhard, former chancellor and the man responsible for West Germany's economic miracle, looks on.

The European Common Market agreed on new deadlines and agendas.

Discussions are to continue, all concerned realising that prolongation of the present state of affairs represents not only a possible end to free convertibility and the introduction of exchange controls but also a risk of contraction of world trade.

US Treasury Secretary John Connally outlined tough and tricky proposals on the penultimate day of the conference. America's import surcharge, which could lead to protectionism and controls all over the world, might, he said, be subject to negotiation if other countries showed willingness to cut back on trade restrictions that have long been a thorn in America's side.

This hint was directed primarily at Japan and the Common Market. These

free trade moves were to be accompanied by a temporary floating of all currencies. There can be no doubt that worldwide currency floating would lead to revaluation in both Europe and Japan that might "for a while" as Karl Schiller of this country put in his final press conference appear tolerable but would in the long run be unacceptable.

This being the case the Americans might, though this is virtually sheer speculation, be prepared to consider devaluing the dollar and not reject the idea out of hand.

The possibility would be a more likely proposition if progress could be achieved on burden-sharing, particularly in respect of the foreign exchange costs of stationing US troops abroad and in development aid.

Fritz Schlösser
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 2 October 1971)

Language row on Four-Power agreement pushed aside

to talks on the Four-Power Agreement consistent with the interpretation made in this country.

One opportunity would be an agreement on the improvement of postal traffic and offset payments to the GDR by this country's Bundespost.

Now that the GDR has consented to the Bundespost acting on West Berlin's behalf State Secretary Bahr has issued an invitation to Michael Kohl, his GDR opposite number, to resume negotiations.

The two men have agreed to start talks on civil passengers and freight traffic between the Federal Republic and the three Western sectors of Berlin. For the time being, then, the GDR's demand that West Berlin and the Federal Republic negotiate separately as laid down in the

Four-Power Agreement has been defused. As the prelude makes it appear more than likely that the inter-German negotiations will follow the same pattern as the Four-Power talks and take ages to circumnavigate the various pitfalls a number of questions remain open.

It may, for instance, well be that the question of who on the Western side is to sign the traffic agreement with the GDR when it comes to the pinch will recur.

Differing interpretations will also play a part in negotiations on other details. Herr Bahr has already noted – in a most defensive manner – that agreement on what constitutes a breach of regulations sufficient to justify spot checks by the GDR customs authorities will prove a tough nut to crack.

This is why it is worth pointing out that in the interest of the Four-Power Agreement the outcome of the German talks on travel to and from West Berlin must contain no greater impediments than follow on directly from the terms of the Allied agreement on Berlin.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 2 October 1971)

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which already exists in the form of special drawing rights (SDRs).

SDRs will only function as a reserve currency and stabilising factor in dealings between central banks, however. All future-reaching plans to oust the dollar as the leading currency proved not only extremely difficult in theory but also utterly unrealistic in political terms.

The moderate reform plans agreed on cannot be said to contain really new ideas. They amount to less than proposals that have been debated for some years. At the conference had no time to deal with basic issues.

I was confronted with a crisis that was being snare out of hand with each passing day. Monetary specialists, central bankers, economic affairs and finance ministers were overwhelmed by political considerations.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Britain's spy-expulsions have not dramatically undermined detente efforts

The expulsion of 105 Soviet diplomats and officials raises a number of issues in relation to Britain's policy towards the Eastern Bloc, particularly now that the Foreign Office aide-memoire to the Kremlin links KGB operations in Britain with the European security conference on which the Soviet Union is so keen.

Britain has made it unmistakably clear that it will only agree to a conference of this kind on condition that KGB activity in Britain is cut back considerably.

Since it is well known that Whitehall has so far been less enthusiastic about the idea of a security conference than other Western governments suspicions were bound to arise that Prime Minister Heath and Foreign Secretary Douglas-Home would like to prevent or at least postpone the holding of a security conference.

The juncture at which Whitehall resorted to this drastic measure might even give rise to suspicions that it represents an attempt by Whitehall to undermine Chancellor Brandt's Ostpolitik.

It was only to be expected that the Soviet Union would put this interpretation to the expulsion order and have its propaganda machine make out the order to be a reversion to cold war.

By then it was too late for the Foreign Office's attempt to make the expulsion out to be of no political significance to have any effect.

A more convincing argument mustered by the British government is that it is not Whitehall that is holding up a European drop-out whose overgrown intelligence bureaucracy casts doubt on the seriousness of his political masters' intentions.

What the Soviet government ought to be doing, Whitehall argues, is to put their secret service chief in his place. In other

Süddeutsche Zeitung

words Britain trusts that the Kremlin will not allow itself to be diverted from its political aims by an intelligence slip-up, always providing, of course, that it really considers these aims to be important.

The British government does not expect serious political consequences to ensue but is prepared for the possibility. To a certain extent, of course, it had no choice in the matter.

Whitehall had to act once the Soviet secret service learnt of the desertion of a high-ranking intelligence official and could no longer be in any doubt as to the fact that its network of agents had been blown.

Otherwise the KGB would have grown increasingly audacious and the Kremlin been increasingly contemptuous in its dismissals of protests lodged by London.

The question ex-Labour Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart is now asking is

whether the government had to stage such a spectacular show. It could have expelled the offenders in smaller groups and with far less publicity.

The effect on the Soviet Union would not have been so intense and the political consequences could have been kept to within calculable limits.

Whitehall's attitude in the debate on a security conference now depends in the further Soviet response.

It is by no means out of the question that the Brussels meeting of Nato Deputy Foreign Ministers will adopt a more wait-and-see attitude in debating the terms of reference for outgoing Nato Secretary-General Manlio Brosio of Italy who is to go on a fact-finding tour of the Eastern Bloc to probe the prospects of a mutual balanced force reduction.

Whitehall certainly has no intention of interfering with Chancellor Brandt's attempt to establish a modus vivendi between the two German states. It did its negotiating the Four-Power agreement in Berlin.

Mr Heath is neither willing nor able to undermine the detente endeavours of Nixon, Pompidou and Brandt "at the sloop," to use one of his favourite phrases.

Dieter Schöls (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 September 1971)

greater weight as being those of a prominent member of the Common Market.

It is interesting to note how important Whitehall (in the person of Premier Heath EEC negotiator) attaches to an intensification of European defence efforts.

Britain is evidently interested in this issue and that of American reductions in Europe before the takes its place at the security conference. The American Presidential election next autumn are another important factor to note.

Security conference reservations

These reservations about a security conference need not necessarily be serious repercussions on Bonn's Ostpolitik, particularly as ideas about a conference are still extremely vague both sides of the Iron Curtain.

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Dieter Schöls (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 September 1971)

HOME AFFAIRS

SPD and FDP are tackling domestic reforms in too timid a manner

Foreign policy makes a mark. Once again a German Chancellor is free-wheeling within the unlimited scope of a newly conceived foreign policy strategy, making one almost forget the trials and tribulations of home affairs.

It is no underestimation of the friction and risk of failure of a major foreign policy operation to note that a hard core of Cabinet policy of old remains at the disposal of diplomacy and that the statesman who starts the ball rolling continues to hold most of the trumps.

In the domestic affairs of a pluralistic democracy there cannot be the same degree of secrecy, discretion and sovereignty timing or elimination of politically relevant factors that may create difficulties.

The leader of the Opposition is kept informed to a certain degree as to the progress of diplomatic moves but since it is a matter of foreign policy he is bound by a measure of loyalty to raison d'état.

When, for that matter, has a Chancellor "in action" cared two hoots for the speculative scribbles of the Press? Leaks may be a nuisance but they can also be an integral part of policy.

Foreign policymakers deal with secretaries, chancelleries and poker-faced opponents, a point, particularly apparent in Willy Brandt's present dealings with the Eastern Bloc.

And Egon Bahr, the Chancellor's faithful right-hand man, is taking good care to ensure that any disturbance of these confidential negotiations is largely precluded prior to their conclusion.

The Chancellor is, however, all the more dependent on a successful conclusion being reached. Democracy has its drawbacks in that a statesman who is responsible to his parliament is, in the final analysis, the prisoner of his own moves.

This is an unmistakable weakness in dealing with opposite numbers who need

Awkward Opposition questions in the Bundestag

The Opposition has called on the government to say what reforms it intends to carry out in the life of the present parliament and will be able to do so.

The idea is to force the government to admit that it took on more than it could chew last autumn with a working programme consisting of more than 400 points.

The Opposition's questions are awkward but justified. The government itself had put off the Opposition and public opinion until the autumn.

Now that Cabinet decisions have been taken on financial planning there is no reason for giving evasive replies and not admitting the main emphasis of government plans.

The government would be doing itself the gravest disservice again to try and put off what can and cannot be achieved. Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Karl Schiller would do well to indulge in some plain budgetary speaking and not limit himself to growth-rate statistical acrobatics. (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 September 1971)

PUBLIK

fear neither public opinion nor the response of elected representatives.

But then Mr Brezhnev is also vulnerable within the politbureau and central committee of his Bolshevik party and in his way equally dependent on success, as has recently been brought to mind by the fate of Nikita Khrushchev.

Practical politics in the enormous domestic sector, which is virtually impossible to survey at one fell swoop, is another matter altogether.

Not that there is less scope for imaginative politics. Quite the reverse. Month by month new major tasks grow like hydra's heads that can only be dealt with by dint of energetic action.

The statesman in a pluralistic system has a vast number of daily decisions to make. Economic and financial considerations, function as a more vicious brake on domestic policy action than competition with another country ever will.

Dependence on these various considerations is there for all to see on the political stage, not covered by the provisions of, say, the Official Secrets Act. A budget can be manipulated by its effects cannot be warded off or intensified.

If foreign policy moves come to naught they can always be called to a halt in good time and with a shrug of the shoulders.

Opposition steps up pressure for government to act on domestic reform programme

To judge by what the Opposition say they are going to great lengths to force the government at long last to pursue the policy of domestic reforms that it is declared aim but which it has so far failed to put into practice.

Already the Opposition have tabled their second major policy motion on the working programme of the Federal government.

No one, of course, harbours any illusions as to the fact that the Christian Democrats are merely utilising to the full their legitimate means of making difficulties for the ruling coalition of Social and Free Democrats.

The Opposition must, however, realise that they are not likely to derive much benefit. In the first half of the life of the present Bundestag the government has implemented or at least inaugurated action on more than half the policy aims contained in the policy statement of 28 October 1969.

At the same time it would be wrong to claim that the government has been uncommonly successful in the domestic policy sector. What has held good for the first two years in office will doubtless apply to the remaining two.

Progress in Ostpolitik is not matched by comparable progress on the home front. The government has carried out a fair amount of minor work and can tick off most of the individual points on its policy agenda. But it has yet to succeed in a grand design in any sector that might justify the term domestic reform.

The second half of the life-span of the present parliament is unlikely to bring with it any major changes in this respect. One almost gains the impression that a number of Ministries are so satisfied with

what they have so far achieved that they are none too keen on taking a fresh run-up at anything in particular.

Much-maligned Housing Minister Lauritz Lauritzen, for instance, has succeeded in passing through parliament the controversial Town Planning Promotion Act, which has now come into force, and now that this toughest nut has been cracked he can sit back and ply the Bundestag with allied legislation, as it were.

Lauritzen's case is a prize example of how difficult domestic policy can be when the machinery of legislation goes at too fast a pace.

Both coalition parties had to accept and carry out what they had agreed on in their policy statement, but as soon as a government department starts to go beyond this part of the agenda the coalition partner starts to become distrustful and stymieing legislation.

Like Herr Lauritzen Interior Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher can numerically be satisfied with his Ministry's accounts, as it were. His four major environmental Bills have either been passed, submitted to parliament or approved by the Cabinet.

As regards their substance, however, specialists are agreed that the compromises reached are such that the legislation will just about enable the Ministry to prevent the pollution situation from becoming more intolerable than it already is and no more.

Among the other major Ministries Ger-

Have they already shot their bolt, is the FDP hindering the SPD or is this a forerunner of the election campaign to gain the support of the middle class, which is wavering between SPD, FDP and Christian Democrats?

Public opinion is well ahead of government activity. Even idiots and ignoramus now realise that schools, kindergartens, universities, roads, undergrounds, hospitals, purification plant and garbage incinerators, all of which are loudly demanded all over the country, cost a great deal of money.

Reform is no longer mainly a matter of redistribution between the rich and the poor, of welfare. It is a matter of redistribution from private consumption to public services - structural policy for all.

A gigantic task of this kind calls for changes in public awareness and a realignment of priorities.

It is growing increasingly apparent that domestic modernisation of the social system must necessarily follow on from the cementation of the status quo in Europe and definitive relaxation of tension that will mark the end of the second stage in this country's post-war foreign policy.

Young people, although seemingly quieter and more indifferent these days (though who can tell?), are growing impatient and not prepared to wait half a generation for what has already been realised and worked out in theory.

They have a right to expect that evident dangers and misdevelopments once recognised as such be determinedly dealt with.

For us Central Europeans on the borderline between two worlds foreign policy may continue to be our destiny but domestic policy represents the life we live.

Emil Obermann (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 24 September 1971)

Moscow and Peking and the European Economic Community

European capitals is already forcing them to make further moves.

Neither is prepared to allow the other to gain the advantage. Should the Common Market one day prove a suitable treaty partner for either Moscow or Peking each would prefer to reap the Western European harvest itself and would certainly begrudge it the other.

Diplomatic contacts have proved that when the need arises both Moscow and Peking are prepared to break the taboo of ignoring the Common Market as a trade factor overnight.

It almost looks as though the Soviet Union were in the process of stepping up its reappraisal of Western European integration. There are even a number of signs that Moscow is planning in the long term to attach considerable importance to the EEC.

Were the first phase of this strategy to succeed and a European security conference to be established as a permanent fixture there would be time and place enough for the second stage of cooperation between alliances in East and West and synchronisation between the EEC and Comecon.

As the danger and prospects inherent in these Soviet designs are self-evident Western European planners have not been inactive. The Soviet interest in the EEC is the major item on the agenda of the Western European summit proposed by M. Pompidou and Mr. Heath.

Peking would seem, as far as the Common Market is concerned, to be less committed, less the prisoner of its own unconsidered propaganda yet at the same time less tenacious.

Peking has yet to grasp a fact that Moscow has long appreciated. From 1973 Common Market members will be unable to conclude trade agreements with other countries independently and from 1975 on they will even be unable to implement them single-handedly.

From this date on the Community will represent Common Market countries' trade interest with others, not the individual countries themselves.

From the mid-seventies anyone wishing to conclude a trade agreement with Common Market countries will have to apply to the Common Market Commission in Brussels.

The Russians and the Chinese may find it more difficult to come to terms with this state of affairs politically than they would economically.

Since they are both economically unable to make even the most minimal forward without Western and European assistance (except, that is, the dint of intense effort) it is clear that sooner or later bound to happen.

Hunger for goods in general and need for technological imports in particular are both working in the Common Market's favour. (Deutsche Zeitung, 1 October 1971)

DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

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Yugoslavia rehabilitated into Moscow's circle of friends

Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger

Pravda was lavish in its choice of words to describe General Secretary Brezhnev's visit to Belgrade. It talked in terms of fraternal feelings between the peoples of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

There was the significant traditional formula of warm fraternal greetings conveyed to the Yugoslavs by Mr Brezhnev in the name of Soviet workers.

In the opinion of Soviet observers the ideological importance of the visit, which is considered to have been a great success, is almost on a par with the foreign policy consequences.

In addition to a fairly uniform view of major international problems the foreign policy consequence is, Moscow feels, in the main that Peking will not be able to establish a foothold in the Balkans - certainly not with Yugoslav support.

Had this not been the case, political observers in Moscow feel, the visit would have been a far less cordial affair and there would have been no question of extending an invitation to President Tito to pay the Soviet Union a return visit.

The ideological passages in the joint declaration are not to be underestimated either, Moscow feels. They contrast sharply with the gloomy forecasts about the Yugoslav way to socialism privately made in the Soviet capital until recently.

Leonid Brezhnev's renewal of Nikita Khrushchev's 1955 guarantee of Yugoslavia's independence and independent development has not come as much of a surprise. Nor has the Soviet leader's denial of the existence of a so-called Brezhnev Doctrine.

Yet only a matter of weeks ago it was noted in the Soviet capital that the Party leader had no intention of making concessions to Belgrade.

With a few qualifications, moreover, Yugoslavia was rehabilitated as a full member of the socialist world system and Pravda talked in terms of the joint class stand of the two countries, which necessarily involves a positive assessment of President Tito's domestic and foreign policy.

Soviet sources are less responsive to suggestions that a logical consequence of this move would be to allow all socialist countries to pursue a policy of independent development without running the risk of being declared traitors to the cause of socialism by the Soviet Union.

Part of the solution to the riddle is that Moscow reckons Tito is a little less confident about the benefit of going it alone.

This, at any rate, is the interpretation made in Moscow of recent speeches by the Yugoslav leader in which he has reiterated the need for class struggle and spoken out against bourgeois elements.

Uwe Engelbrecht (Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 28 September 1971)



Rudolf Augstein

NEWS MEDIA

Augstein puts the brakes on Spiegel's left-wing

if the report was true Gaus no longer stuck to the denial.

Augstein and Gaus had previously met Böhm to smooth over his poor relationships with von Hoffmann and editor-in-chief Gaus admitted that his first denial had been a lie told because of his "perplexed helplessness".

Gestures of solidarity now began to snowball. The same night the second D.I. man asked to be relieved of his duties. Another threatened that he would in no even resign while he was still a member of the editorial council while yet another, who had nothing to do with department D.I., came along to protest. During that same night Gaus considered whether he should leave.

But the editor-in-chief remained and publisher Augstein threatened to change his plans for staff participation in decision-making under which the staff would have had a fifty-per-cent say from 1973 onwards if the editorial council rejected decisions on personnel taken by management and the editors-in-chief.

Augstein even spoke of amputation, meaning that he would split with the left-wingers if need be. Gaus argued that it was best to get rid of the person that could be replaced more easily, adding that the head of the Bonn branch could not be sacked two and a half years before the next elections. It was Gaus who dismissed Böhm's predecessor Goyke from the post in 1969, the last election year.

But the editorial council disapproved of Alexander von Hoffmann's dismissal from his post as head of the Deutschland I department. Colleagues said that he was once a truly liberal conservative.

Augstein, his editors-in-chief and editors then agreed to delay the final decision until 30 September when the von Hoffmann case would be raised again.

The purpose of the agreement was to catch up on negotiations that had not yet been conducted, allowing Böhm and von Hoffmann to find some way of solving their difference with Gaus' help. The two

protagonists also agreed and von Hoffmann's dismissal was withdrawn.

Some observers claim that this was not the case de facto and that editor-in-chief Gaus had indicated he had wanted to uphold the original decision in which his influence had told.

They further claim that Gaus had taken sides against the Deutschland I department with remarks that the description "left-wing liars" was more tenable than "reactionary". Gaus' friend Böhm and other members of the Bonn staff had indicated no readiness for compromise, they add.

In the end, most of the editorial council no longer saw any possibility of effecting an agreement between D.I. and the Bonn branch. The conflict had become a conflict over house policy and had meanwhile assumed the character of a clash between ideologically-motivated group interests.

A minority on the editorial council continued to hold out against staff changes but it is hard to say how much the "left wing" is concerned with participation in decision-making or with getting their ideological line accepted.

Publisher Augstein did not tarry long. On 20 September he and his editor-in-chief confirmed von Hoffmann's dismissal and stated that they would have no share in what they described as the suicidal activities of the editorial council. Augstein had already described two memoranda from this body as harmful to the concern.

Staff questions would now only be dealt with by the management and editors-in-chief, they added, the editors did not after all form a parliament, the editorial council was not a committee of the full assembly and the statutes of this body only led to anarchy.

The explosion had occurred. The only thing the full assembly could do was to disapprove of the form of the decision of the editors-in-chief by a two-thirds majority.

Rudolf Augstein had put forward his plans for participation in decision-making



Günter Gaus

at a time when calls for editorial reform could not be overheard.

The two sides agreed in a statute which the editorial council would present the interests of the editors-in-chief being bound to the decisions of the editorial assembly.

But Rudolf Augstein has now changed his mind. As representatives of an important section of staff who would have a fifty-per-cent share of the firm's capital, he argues, the editorial council must imbue itself with a sense of institutional ideology. It includes resisting attempts by the assembly to cut its powers.

Augstein left no doubt as to the tenor of his determination. He announced that on that the leading men in the concern would not look on unmoved if after decision in the Bonn/D.I. case the editorial staff took action that the concern would consider illegal.

Observers now believe that Augstein's plan was only meant to guard against worse evils. They wonder whether he will have to sever himself from the left-wings in case the power balance in his firm swings against him in a few years time.

Maria Helderscheid
(Handelsblatt, 24 September 1971)
(Photo: AP)

Social Democrats show sudden interest in television

suspecting that these three men with similar political views wanted to come to some agreement on staffing policy.

The sharp reaction of the SPD, which thinks, presumably justifiably, that it was outmanoeuvred on this occasion, is less an answer to this preparatory meeting as part of a general movement to finding a more consistent policy towards the mass media.

Oswald's action indicates that the demand made on the Prime Ministers of the Federal states by Jockel Fuchs, a Social Democrat and deputy chairman of the television council, was no flash in the pan.

Fuchs demanded that the ZDF's contract should be withdrawn. The Social Democrats, and basically the Free Democrats too, are obviously no longer prepared to tolerate for ever what Fuchs called the one-sided, political majority formations on the ZDF's controlling boards.

Seen in this light, an escalation in the conflict surrounding the issue cannot be welcome to the CDU/CSU especially as this is the tenth year in the existence of

the ZDF and discontented Prime Ministers now have their first chance of scrapping the agreement.

The administrative council is tied to compromise and cooperation if it is not to become a farce or a permanent battle field.

But practically no more than lip-service would be paid to this necessary operation if the administrative council, a controlling body with a high degree of decision-making responsibility in the personnel sphere, were to degenerate into a board where motions were passed indiscriminately by a party political majority.

The SPD must have understood the situation. Oswald's drastic action was supported by party colleagues in Bonn who had long been in a state of lethargy as far as the mass media were concerned. The Social Democrats can also count on the support of the Free Democrats who in recent months have shown repeatedly about the alarming tendency for the ZDF to become a Christian-Democrat controlled "CDF".

The final crunch has only been delayed. The question of party political power and end independent programme compilation unless the situation changes and the ZDF is once again considered an organisation in the mass media in the service of the public.

Hans-Joachim Noack
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 September 1971)

GOVERNMENT

Constitutional Court celebrates twenty years of existence

decided by a legal ruling. In his opening address Hermann Höpker-Aschoff, the Court's first head, stated, "It is not the task of the Federal Constitutional Court to take decisions about political conflicts but merely to ensure that the participants of these struggles respect the norms of Basic Law that are binding on everybody and guarantee order."

Twenty years later Professor Gerhard Leibholz, one of the Court's judges and on the point of retiring, writes in a recently-published book, "It cannot be disputed that the issues subject to the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court touch upon political issues and that the decisions of the Court could have extraordinarily far-reaching political consequences and alter decisively the play of political forces."

Gebhard Müller, the head of the Constitutional Court until 13 October this year, also takes stock in the same book.

"After twenty years," he writes, "it can be stated that the establishment of the Court has made an essential contribution to the stabilisation of the life of the State and that the comprehensive constitutional controls have not led to an intolerable spread of politics into the administration of justice as opponents of the Constitutional Court feared."

Since 1951 a total of 22,000 complaints have been received by the Karlsruhe-based Court. The help promised to citizens in Basic Law takes up half the time of the two chambers.

Though relatively few complaints are successful, important rulings have been made at times. In 1953 it was decided

that men and women were equal and were to be treated as such. This resulted in a number of changes in laws concerning marriage and family matters.

In 1956 the Federal Constitutional Court stated that the Communist Party was unconstitutional and banned it.

In 1961 the Court stated that the foundation of a "German Television Company" by the central government and Chancellor Adenauer was null and void as it was incompatible with Basic Law.

The Court caused a sensation in 1966 when it rejected a complaint by the Spiegel publishing company, thus providing the final verdict on the Spiegel affair of October 1962.

The Constitutional Court has been praised and reviled in the past twenty years. Its decisions often cause displeasure in Bonn. When the judges thwarted the government's plans for a television network Chancellor Adenauer stated, "The Cabinet is agreed that the Constitutional Court's judgment is wrong."

Politicians of all shades of opinion were indignant when the Court banned the financing of parties from public funds. The man-on-the-street's anger was raised when the Court approved a phone-tapping law.

Changes will be made in the composition of the Court towards the end of the year. Apart from Gebhard Müller, five other judges are leaving because their term of office has expired or they have reached the retiring age.

Wiltraut Rupp von Brünneck and Rudi Wandt can be re-elected but for months now politicians in Bonn have been wrestling over the issue of who to appoint to the four vacant posts.

The most likely candidate for the position of president is Karl Carstens, a former State Secretary in the Chancellor's Office and a Christian Democrat. Another Christian Democrat, Ernst Benda, a former Minister of the Interior, is also in the running.

The CDU will not decide who should be sent to Karlsruhe until after the party congress this October. The SPD has already made up its mind and nominated Martin Hirsch, the deputy chairman of the parliamentary party, as a judge in the Constitutional Court's Second Chamber. In three and a half years time Hirsch would then succeed Walter Seuffert as the Court's Vice-President.

Walter Schallies

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 September 1971)

Humanist Union's 10th anniversary

Ten years ago on 28 September 1961 the Humanist Union was registered with the registrar of companies. The writer and journalist Gerhard Szecseny had sponsored its foundation.

The Humanist Union, a body particularly concerned with taking religion from the schools, stated in its manifesto: "It is the task of the Humanist Union to ensure the preservation or restoration of our basic rights, defend the communal values and amenities of our State, advocate a system of education and research that is free and divorced from all ideology, and do everything suited to leading to the revelation and recognition of the religious, philosophical, ideological, artistic and existentialist trends in our society."

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 September 1971)

Committee discusses plan to fine polluters

The Cabinet Committee for Environmental Questions met on 22 September to discuss a conservation programme put forward by Minister of the Interior Hans-Dietrich Genscher and based on a list of immediate measures drawn up some time ago.

The committee consists of all the Ministers in Bonn apart from those of Development Aid, Inter-German Relations and Justice. This shows how complex the subject is considered.

The draft conservation programme envisaged programmes costing of 28,000 million Marks up to 1975. The money would be raised by the central government, Federal states, local authorities and industry.

Industry would contribute 15,300 million Marks and the central government would pay 3,600 millions of the remaining amount. Medium-term financial planning involving 1,400 millions is not much.

From what has leaked out, it is expected that the environmental programme will pay great attention to the sources of pollution. The cost of any conservation measures will be borne by those who caused the damage in question.

It is also intended to create a council of environmental specialists along the lines of the Specialist Council for Overall Economic Development.

A specialist council for environmental questions would consist of experts and representatives of various groups, not small from a numerical point of

It is also reported that the conservation programme contains a number of organisational measures that should help to create the necessary bodies for acting against pollution.

Consideration is being paid to setting up a Federal Bureau for the Protection of the Environment responsible for all the purely technical and administrative tasks now distributed among a number of Ministries.

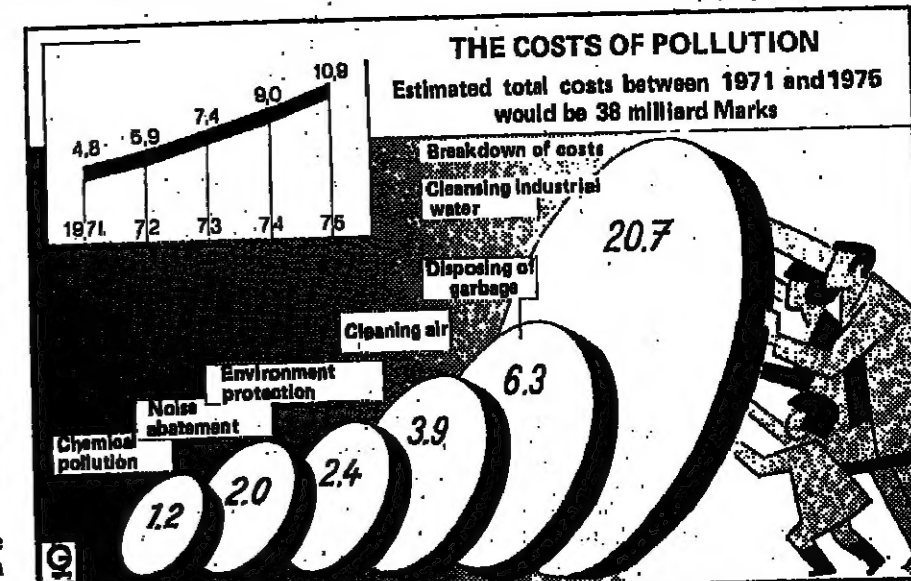
This body would be modelled on the Federal Administrative Bureau which deals centrally with the tasks of general administration under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior and the other Ministers affected by its actions.

Giving the new body a structure of this type would avoid the danger of turning it into a Super-Ministry of the Environment which would come into conflict with those ministries that had surrendered some of their jurisdiction.

President Schäfer of the Federal Accounts Court has been asked to submit a memorandum on what type of organisation would be most suitable for a body concerned with questions of the environment.

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Estimates are being prepared in Bonn as to how costly anti-pollution proposals would be. It has been calculated that between 1971 and 1975 as much as 38 milliard Marks would be needed in all to cover present proposals, 4.8 milliard Marks in 1971 rising to almost 11 milliard in 1975. Fifty per cent would be provided by state governments. The remainder by industrial organisations.

view and would not be attached to any ministry but would enjoy a considerable degree of independence.

The Specialist Council would have to submit a report on the current situation at various intervals of time and propose what measures should be taken.

So far there is no environmental statistics law but this should be remedied by next spring. This law would oblige the government to compile comprehensive statistics on matters such as water and air pollution based on standardised criteria, which has not been the case up to now meaning that it was hard to compare data.

Despite its rather non-controversial

sounding title, it will be hard to push the law through the Bundestag because of the expenditure it involved.

The various penal clauses now contained in a number of laws including some new ones such as the Immission Act should be covered by special laws, at least as far as glaring examples of violations against regulations for the conservation of the environment are concerned. Action of this nature would tend to make people see what is illegal. A sixteen-man team that has already submitted proposals for penal reform is now to draw up a draft law covering pollution offences of this type.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 September 1971)

EDUCATION

University planning demands considerable attention to detail and requirements

Hans Leussink, the Minister of Education and Science, is right when he says: "We have now experienced a short period of planning euphoria after years of hostility toward planning. We are now beginning to achieve that objectivity necessary for success."

This necessary objectivity also appears in the work on university planning edited by Professor Linde of the Central Archives for University Building in Stuttgart.

This four-volume work of which three volumes have now appeared is the first

Hochschulplanung (University Planning). Edited by Horst Linde. Published by Werner Verlag, Düsseldorf. Three volumes. Price per volume: 50 Marks.

attempt of building planners in this country to describe the whole difficult field of university planning and contribute towards the study of university administration.

The work is necessary as university building is still surrounded by mystery. Few universities investigate what demand for space there is within their walls. Few universities can say whether staff, space and equipment are being used to the best possible effect.

Analyses of the space situation have only just begun. Obviously, these will be closely linked to the question of demand.

How much space does a chemistry student need for example? Not just in the

laboratory but also in the other rooms of his department, in the administrative building, in libraries, lecture rooms and workshops?

The pioneer work in this field has been done by the Central Archives in Stuttgart. It is this body that is to be thanked for removing the veil of mystery from the socio-technical aspects of the university systems.

The first volume of the work is devoted mainly to the history of universities. The first section shows how the university developed from the high schools of medieval times through the Renaissance, the Reformation, Counter-Reformation and Enlightenment to the Berlin University based on the ideas of the Prussian Minister Wilhelm von Humboldt.

The second section deals with the structural picture of the university in the course of time, ranging from the Universitas magistrorum et scholarium, a corporation of teachers and pupils, to the academic factories of the twentieth century.

The third part deals with the position of universities abroad and international trends in university development and planning.

The final section of the first volume turns to the German university and the history of its reforms from Humboldt's momentous article *On the Internal and External Organisation of the Institutes of Higher Education in Berlin* to the university reform plans of the sixties.

Volume two focuses on issues of structural and building planning. It deals

with university administration, the regulation of teaching and research spheres with integrated systems of information and methods of planning according to requirements. One section is concerned with the planning of institutes for medical research and training.

Volume three discusses the structural aspects of micro-planning, describing the qualitative characteristics of rooms and areas according to purpose and mentioning the problems of standardisation.

Standardisation is on the one hand the harmonisation of requirements, building techniques and planning processes and on the other hand a setting of norms in university construction so as to allow assembly-line production of prefabricated buildings.

The aim of standardisation is a decrease in the costs involved in both construction and operation and a reduction of the time taken between the initial planning stage and the final handing-over ceremony.

The authors of the work manage to give a clear survey of this complicated subject. Praise must be given to the formal organisation of the volumes and the pictures and diagrams contained within them.

In view of the discussion about comprehensive universities, attention should be drawn to the section of volume one dealing with university planning in the United States.

Proposals to adopt a comprehensive university system in West Germany have been put forward ever since the mid-sixties. But the United States has long had

comprehensive universities like New York State University or the University of California.

A reader might have expected this book would have discussed the past and results of the change-over to isolated universities of varying size to a comprehensive system in West Germany.

But this unfortunately does not do. The whole section on comprehensive universities is rather scanty. One conclusion must also be made. The statement that the Weizsäcker Plan abolishes the mas incorrect. The draft plan for a ring-block comprehensive university provide for academic certificates.

In view of the current arguments about integrated future universities, it is useful to read Peter Jochims' article in volume two on the "Socio-Integration".

This article will help to dispel a lot of euphoria surrounding the question

Süddeutsche Zeitung

integration. It would indeed be better put into practice the theory that integrated operations were more economical without examining it more closely.

Politicians and planners dealing with universities should also keep something else in mind: "Integration should not be aimed at merely to stimulate the interdisciplinary discussion between academic disciplines. If academics have nothing to say to each other, this will not be changed by putting them in the same room. On the other hand if they are of scientific importance to each other they will certainly meet even if separated by a distance of thousands of miles."

Dieter Mohr

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 September 1971)

MEDICINE

Doctors and scientists discuss in Berlin television's harmful effects

Can watching television impair a person's health? Are there diseases that specifically attack TV viewers? Doctors and scientists at the International Radio and Television Exhibition in Berlin began to try to find the answers.

A group of doctors from Heidelberg examined the difference of coronary arteries in patients with blood pressure before and after watching television.

Various live broadcasts, crime films and other exciting programmes caused the pulse-beat to rise considerably, leading to palpitations. The heart often beat as many as 179 times a minute while even the exertions of a half-mile walk only gave the heart to beat 140 times a minute.

Specialists therefore recommend patients suffering from high blood pressure to avoid watching television programmes that could cause them excitement.

Professor Ludwig Demling of Erlangen, a specialist in digestive and metabolic diseases, measured patients' stomach acid while they watched television.

The amount increases with the tension and stress caused by the programme. Increased acidity can lead to stomach or intestinal ulcers, Professor Demling stressed.

Cancer prevention scheme wins majority support

People do not just think of the service as valuable but they also want to take advantage of the opportunities offered them.

Only six per cent refused to have anything to do with the scheme for fear of finding they have cancer. Eighty-six per cent have no such fears. They want to take advantage of the service to have a free examination every year so that any incidence of cancer can be arrested in its initial stages. (Neue Hannoversche Presse, 15 September 1971)

Hannoversche Presse

Since the beginning of July this year medical insurance schemes have been obliged to cover medical examinations for women above 30 and men over 45 as part of the cancer prevention programme.

An opinion poll conducted by the Infass Institute of Bad Godesberg reveals that the majority of the people in this country approve of the step.

The report now issued was based on the answers of more than a thousand adults living in the Federal Republic and West Berlin.

Nearly two per cent of all those interviewed considered the free anti-cancer examinations to be an important innovation in the social security system.

Only four per cent described them as irrelevant. Four per cent refused to comment. Elderly people were more hesitant in their opinion than the younger people covered by the poll.

The importance of these preventive examinations are stressed on all sides.

Health Ministry examines smallpox question

The Ministry of Health is currently examining the question of whether the inoculation of babies against smallpox should remain compulsory.

A Health Ministry spokesman stated that the Federal Health Council has been asked to investigate the problem and submit a report.

The World Health Organisation in Geneva has stated that inoculation against smallpox could be suspended in developing countries without any danger to the rest of the population.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 21 September 1971)

Marburg plans centre for spastic children

Marburg, the surrounding local district, the Health Bureau and the Society for the Care of Spastic and Physically Handicapped Children plan to build a spastic centre in the Ockershausen area of the city in the spring of 1972.

Dr Burghard Vilmar, the Society Chairman, announced in Marburg that the first stage of building programme would cost 200,000 Marks.

The centre will contain two rooms for looking after spastic children in a general way and two special departments for physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

An advisory centre for spastics has been set up by the city health authorities. Dr Kurt Roderich Nittner, the head of the health authorities there, stated that one of the most important functions of the advisory centre was to catch the disease in its early stages and provide a plan of cure.

All children thought to be in danger will be examined in the first few months after their birth even if they show no symptoms of spasticity. The advisory centre is headed by Dr Exner, a lady specialist.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 September 1971)

Behring produce serum to overcome rejection in transplant surgery

After years of research the Behring works, Marburg, have developed an anti-serum for lymphocytes, the first preparation of its type not to contain antibodies.

It will be available to transplant centres throughout the world and is to be called Anti-Human-Lymphocyte Globulin, a spokesman stated.

It will lead to a considerable reduction in the dangers accompanying transplant operations, especially kidney transplants. The success of a transplant depends on whether doctors manage to suppress the body's immunological defence mechanisms against the foreign organ.

The lymphocytes that are part of this mechanism reject the transplanted organ if their activity cannot be controlled in time.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 17 September 1971)

Science Ministry tries to cut back the number of advisory councils

Critics of the West German social system have always looked upon the Ministry of Education and Science as a political-industrial complex.

The number of advisory committees, 38 in all, seemed to be proof of an increased spread of a State and economic bureaucracy that the public could not survey in entirety and that the Bundestag could no longer control.

The problems of "adviseritis" were seen when Christian Democrat Gerhard Stoltenberg, the former Minister of Scientific Research, set up an *Advisory Committee for Research Policy* that shied away from public gaze, distinguished itself by a high degree of ineffectiveness but always roused suspicions that it was inadmissibly mixing public and economic interests.

After months of indecision Science Minister Hans Leussink has now replaced this "secret science cabinet", as Social Democrat member Wierich called it, with a new body, the *Advisory Committee for Education and Science*.

Influential permanent committees like the *Atomic Commission* or the *Specialist Council for Data Processing* have been wound up and replaced by more lightly organised specialist committees.

Leussink hopes that these new committees will contain more young advisers who have not yet risen to the top positions in industry or education than has previously been the case. The Minister's views on this subject cannot be dismissed if there is to be an efficient advisory service.

Whether making the committees younger will also make them more independent is another question. Where powerful

interests are involved experience has shown that there is little difference whether interest groups exert their influence through professors of long standing or through young intellectuals who are rising to the top.

The only opportunity to control the process is via the public though even this is difficult to implement.

But things are to change here too. Contrary to previous practice, the composition and recommendations of the advisory committees will be published annually in future.

The Science Ministry is therefore the first government ministry to try and prune the number of advisory councils. These total 264 at present, some of them dating back to 1900.

Hans Leussink, as Minister responsible for technology, needs advice more than any other minister. Everything depends on his advisers' efficiency.

No answer has yet been given to the questions of the importance of research policy control apparatus for social services policy.

The various members of the advisory groups will be appointed *ad personam* but notice will be taken of their role in industry or education.

Whether or not they will rise above their particular interests will not be witnessed until the new committees first turn to the controversial questions of research and education policy.

Forcing them to consider the common good is "once again" the task of the Minister and a challenge to his skill.

Udo Bergdoll

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 September 1971)

Frankfurter Allgemeine

One of the world's top ten

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This country's exporters have now had to live for over five months with the upward floating of the Mark and have withstood the first thirty days of America's import tax, which runs contrary to the code of free world trade.

It is not correct to say that the dark clouds that gathered over West German exports when both measures were introduced have dispersed but the "weather" forecasts are not so unfavourable now.

The opportunities for this country's exporters on foreign markets are now being gauged more realistically than they were in the not-so-distant past.

Nevertheless despite the general feeling of relief it must not be forgotten that certain individual branches of the economy have been hit very hard by both the Mark upvaluation and America's protectionist moves.

Incoming contracts and orders from abroad in the months of May, June and July (exact figures for trading in more recent months are not yet available) did in fact drop by two per cent compared with the first months of this year.

But these figures were still six per cent up compared with the corresponding period of last year. Even so, when the level of price increases is taken into account the real growth over the year was no more than one and a half per cent.

Following the two previous revaluations of the Mark, in March 1961 and October 1969, orders from abroad also declined.

But one of the main reasons for this was that as soon as there was talk about the parity of the Mark and it seemed likely that a step had to be taken to readjust currency policies foreign purchasers of West German goods were quick to step in and make their orders before the Mark could be upvalued so as to take advantage of a favourable rate of exchange before it was too late.

As a result of this orders naturally declined following the revaluation, but later they recovered. The increase in cost of West German products as a result of the upvaluing of the Mark cut back our exports for a year after revaluation in 1961, whereas in 1969 it was only over a short term that an effect was noticeable statistically.

The reason for this was that the rate of inflation in countries which are the Federal Republic's best customers were even more marked than here and the price-raising effect of the revaluation was quickly levelled out.

But the decline in the number of orders from abroad this summer is due not only to currency policy reasons. In addition to this there is the stagnation that has affected many of the countries that place large orders with the Federal Republic.

No future in Mark speculation, Karl Klasen warns

The Central Bank Committee of the Bundesbank at a recent meeting failed to reach any decisions on credit policies. Bank President Karl Klasen did, however, tell journalists that it would be possible for the Bank to make such decisions in the near future. But for the time being it was essential, in his opinion, to await the results of the International Monetary Fund AGM.

When considering whether there should be a drastic change of direction in cash and credit policies the Bundesbank would base its decisions first and foremost on domestic economic aims, Klasen stated. He added that this country has done its bit towards protecting international economic interests by floating the Mark and can now concentrate on attacking price rises on the home front.

As far as price stability is concerned, said Herr Klasen, we must bear in mind

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Exporters are unabashed at currency policy vagaries

However, some of our most important trading partners abroad have embarked on a policy of expansion in their economic policies.

This is a step that has been most marked in the United States. President Nixon is now flat out for success or bust, especially as the presidential elections are coming up again next year.

But the move towards expansion applies just as much to Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan. As soon as these countries have got their programmes of reflation into swing the Federal Republic's exporters will be able to enjoy a part of the increased demand.

By means of measures taken in the Federal Republic alone our competitiveness could be increased. If the degree of wage and salary increases achieved by workers and their unions were to be lower than that of last year there would be less pressure on the cost side. This would improve the chances of West German products abroad.

The sales potential and the competitiveness of our exporters are in the near future not so bleak after all.

Nevertheless on the currency policy scene the sense of uncertainty continues

Those engaged in trade with other countries are more than a little unsure of themselves. Currency policies and trade policies can no longer be treated separately. But when currency experts play poker nobody is allowed to see anyone else.

Nobody wants escalation. But who knows what lies round the corner tomorrow? For exporters who are forced to plan over a long term uncertainty of this kind can be fatal. America could for instance start a policy of export boosting or give even more teeth to discrimination against imported capital-investment goods.

Economic nationalism is lurking around the corner. "Buy American" appeals are gaining ground and beginning to take effect. Protected industries are beginning to find the going much easier.

It is only a matter of time before economies of European countries demand to be given assistance. Canada has already

that the inflationary mentality which has been rife in the Federal Republic persists. This is particularly true of government spending. Inflationary tendencies should not be encouraged by lowering interest rates, the Bundesbank President stated.

Commenting on the intervention of the Bundesbank on the currency exchange market Herr Klasen said that there was no intention of sticking to a fixed dollar parity. But in the interests of industry for one thing the exchange rate should not be allowed to go on sinking ad infinitum. The Federal Republic did not want to take a lone stand in leaving the rate of the dollar to its own devices and the state of the market.

On the other hand the Bank wanted to make it quite clear that it was not basically out to hold itself aloof from the state of the market. The Bundesbank's intervention was aimed against unusual rumours and speculation that had nothing to do with floating.

He summed up: "If anyone still thinks he can make a quick Mark killing he has underestimated us."

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 September 1971)

unabated. Even after the meeting of the Group of Ten (the ten most important industrial nations in the free world) it was not possible to say how quickly this uncertainty would be swept aside.

But the governments involved have announced their intent to return to fixed parities as soon as this is feasible. This presumably means that there will be new parities which level out the differences in purchasing power of the different countries' currencies.

Washington must also be interested in the outcome of this. The Americans' new import tax surcharge may help to keep imports down, but it does nothing to boost exports.

A realignment of parities which would remove the overvaluation of the dollar would achieve both in one fell swoop.

The fixing of parities again would, if it avoided overvaluing or undervaluing any of the currencies, create greater security for the exporter. But if the process of calming down the international monetary situation is to be longer lasting than it has been in the past a more flexible solution must be found.

At any rate a realignment of parities means that much of the data used by the

International currency mess for exporters' spectacles

taken steps to protect its economy, helping those most directly hit with subsidies so that the unemployment quota does not rise any further.

The Americans have a decisive role to play in the matter of unravelling the complications of the present currency and economics mess. Just how tough are their demands in effect?

The more the solution to the currency problem approaches a multilateral massive revaluation of currencies the less will be Washington's attacks on European Economic Community trade policies.

The less substantial and ineffectual solutions to the currency problem are on the other side the more likely it will be that we will face new crises of a similar kind within a few years.

Europe may not make a decisive step forward for as long as the Americans are suffering from a serious imbalance of payments.

Economic as well as political considerations play a major role in the reserved attitude adopted by Professor Schiller when the Council of Ministers in Brussels was arriving at its decision. The Bonn government, it was stated at a Concerted Action meeting, can afford least of all countries a worldwide decline into controlled economies with its great involvement over a wide area in foreign trade.

According to the industrialists the first essential is to remove burdens from and give assistance to the United States, the Confederation of Federal Republic Industries warns.

Now, how can we encourage the Americans to remove their trade restrictions?

The joint action of the EEC countries, which was toned down at the last minute, could be considered the first step in this direction. The Community has certainly not said its last word, Professor Schiller stated in an attempt at appeasement. The EEC joint action amounts to a hand proffered to the Americans.

The Americans, viewing the actions taken by the Federal Republic objectively, should recognise that the re-

West German economy must be able to considerably. For we must assume that any realignment will involve an upvaluation of the Mark.

This puts the pressure on companies in this country since access to our markets by foreign companies is made easier, while exporters in this country are faced with yet another hurdle to mount.

When the undervaluation of the Mark has been removed our involvement in road will at any rate prove more lucrative. Companies will be more readily prepared to open up subsidiaries abroad to take on any advantages such as lower wages.

This is a tendency that should be highly favourable for West German exporters since the more highly developed country is, the greater is the degradation with it.

This is of course a consideration for longer term, but there is another reason for having faith in the strength of the West German economy. Prices are naturally an important factor in the popularity of a country's exports, but the only factor.

Our industry has achieved its reputation in the world through quality and technical sophistication of its products. In addition to this there is flexibility and adaptability of our men who work on the foreign markets.

Factors such as this are not affected by the vagaries of monetary policies. They are another reason why our exporters face the future with confidence.

Hans-Jürgen Mohr
(Die Welt, 20 September 1971)

INDUSTRY

Düsseldorf show highlights utility of plastics

There are unlikely to be any major new additions of basically different kinds of plastics for widespread general use in the near future. But the various basic kinds of plastic already developed can be further "bred" to give materials with different qualities.

At present polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and other plastics yield over fifty different kinds of material which can be put to a multitude of uses. The basic types are modified as required for making such diverse items as wheels for the workings of a watch, for which the material has to be as hard as steel, or foam fillings for cushions, where the plastic has to be soft and pliant.

Plastics in their hardest forms are now used as buildings materials for modern constructions. Yet they can be elastic and used for components of cars. They can be as clear as glass for making optical lenses or foil for packaging, or they can be coloured with all the hues that go to make up the trendy Pop world — ideal for children's toys or brightening up the kitchen utensils cupboard.

They can be reliably stable for use as tanks, to carry central heating oil for instance. As crash barriers on autobahns plastics can be tough, but with enough give to soak up the force of impact without hurling a car back on to the road.

A comprehensive look at the world of plastics was given by the exhibition "K 71 in Düsseldorf (K for Kunststoff — plastics). This exhibition which is held once every four years christened the new fairgrounds in Düsseldorf.

About one thousand exhibitors from 21 different countries put their goods on show in the twelve halls and gave the new fair centre an impressive send-off. Some exhibits were also on show in the open on the fair-ground. The whole exhibition was an informative showcase of the manufacture, processing and usage of plastics.

There were some particularly interesting developments to be seen in the way of foam plastics and we can expect further advances in this direction, especially as virtually all known polymers can be made into foam by one process or another.

Soft foam plastics are being used to an ever greater extent in mattresses and upholstery and lately their application has been spread to fillings for car seats; and harder foams can be used as insulation material in refrigeration plant.

From plastics between plastic covered steel make an ideal material for prefabricated building sections. And foam plastics are finding new applications in the manufacture of sporting equipment and many other similar spheres.

Semi-hard foam plastics which are covered with a massive outer skin as they are produced are today an indispensable part of automobile manufacturing.

While the world production of plastics has increased by one third in the past few years, that is to say since K 67 the use of increase in the Federal Republic has been one and a half times.

In 1970 4,320,000 tons of plastics were produced, 1,750,000 tons were exported and 820,000 tons were imported. Plastics have now moved into the category of one of the essential elements of human life along with iron, soap or paper as calculated on a per capita usage basis.

Apparently the Federal Republic was ahead of even Japan and the United States from the point of view of consumption of plastics per capita. West Germans use 55 kilograms of plastics each



Miniature pumps in plastic balls with small windows so that the pumps can be seen were displayed by one exhibitor at the Düsseldorf plastics fair. (Photo: dpa)

while the Japanese use forty kilograms and the United States only 39 kilograms. But these statistics are deceptive. The figures for domestic consumption include the amount of plastics and plastic goods manufactured for export, which is particularly high in the Federal Republic.

Plastics have now reached a high percentage of the production and output of our chemical industries. At Bayer dye works for instance the proportion of "chemical materials" (polyurethane, plastics and caoutchouc) has grown so far that it has now become one quarter of the turnover, amounting to 2,500 million Marks.

Bayer has cornered about one third of the world production of polyurethane raw materials — over one million tons in 1970 — and in the production of synthetic India-rubber the Bayer group plans to increase its capacity to about 600,000 tons per annum by 1975.

BASF increased its turnover in plastics in 1970 by twelve per cent to 1,900 million Marks. This amounted to eighteen per cent of the total turnover of the Badische Anilin & Soda Fabrik group. In all 1,300,000 tons of synthetic materials were produced.

Between 1961 and 1970 BASF invested over two milliard Marks in plastics and at present 22 per cent of the allocation for research is devoted to development of plastics.

Twenty-two million households in the Federal Republic will in the course of the next few weeks be sent free twenty million full-colour catalogues, each containing up to 40,000 articles for sale.

Senders of the heavyweight mass-produced catalogues will be the mail-order houses of West Germany which have flourished since the end of the War. The largest of these buy-through-the-post firms enjoy a turnover which stands comparison with that of the major department stores such as Karstadt, Hertie and Kaufhof.

West German large-scale mail-order firms, many of which are still run by their founders, for instance Gustav Schickedanz and Josef Neckermann, had a turnover of more than seven thousand million Marks with their catalogue trade last year. This figure was 4.3 per cent of the total turnover of West German trading concerns.

While conventional businesses, such as tobacconists, sausage sellers, stores, supermarkets and trading chains procure their goods from a wholesaler or an organisation dealing in the distribution of goods on a large scale, mail-order houses obtain their stock direct from the manufacturer, cutting out a middleman and enabling themselves to offer tempting prices.

Sales talk - free through the letter box

Big man of the mail-order business is Gustav Schickedanz who runs Quelle (the name means 'fountain' or 'source'). His turnover for this year will be about two thousand million Marks, scarcely less than the turnover expected by his two main rivals put together.

These two are Otto Versand with an expected turnover for 1971 of 1.2 milliard Marks and Neckermann (900 million Marks).

Schickedanz' group also runs the speciality mail-order house Schöpfung and puts on to the market exactly half of the catalogues of the roughly 2,000 small and large West German mail order concerns.

Quelle issues about 6,300,000 volumes costing seven Marks apiece to produce. 3,500,000 of these are special catalogues. Since catalogues are issued twice a year in the spring and autumn Herr Schickedanz has to allow 130 million Marks for the cost of the brightly coloured books alone.

such as metals and glass rose by seventy and 33 per cent respectively, leather became sixteen per cent more expensive and wood for woodworking increased by twelve per cent, plastics became on average 27 per cent cheaper up till 1970.

In the meantime the advantages gained from rationalisation have been exhausted. Some plant is being used to the full and there would be no benefit to be derived from increasing capacities any further in most cases.

At this latest stage price increases in raw materials (mainly oil), investment requirements and wage and salary bills must be passed on in the form of higher prices.

At the present moment, however, excesses are flooding on to the market. Sections of plant for mass-production of plastics are only running at 75 per cent of capacity.

Factors such as this make it difficult to implement price rises. Thus the chemicals industry will have to tighten its belt with regard to investment in several spheres of production until demand and production capacity have levelled out.

A new trend will be noticed in the investment plans in the future. Countries producing fuel oil want to have a hand in the processing. Plans regarding the integration of the production and processing of crude oil, the manufacture of chemical raw materials derived from petroleum and their further processing to plastics are reaching maturity.

At least a half of the fair in Düsseldorf was given over to the manufacturers of machines for processing plastics. There are about 180 firms in the Federal Republic working in this sphere, 28,000 people roughly are employed in this sector and the production volume last year was more than 1,600 million Marks.

Producers of plastics had prepared themselves well for the polemics that they expected to be directed against them at K 71, and quite rightly so, on the question of the environment. The great advantage of plastics is now recognised as being at one and the same time one of their major disadvantages, namely their resistance to deterioration and corrosion.

But life without plastics now is hard to imagine. The wheels of technology cannot be turned back. The industry recognises that the production, processing and use of plastics must be geared to the requirements of the environment. But at the same time those who work with plastics demand that discussions about plastics and the environment should be more matter-of-fact and less emotional.

Günther Schach
(Deutsche Zeitung, 24 September 1971)

His competition Neckermann sends out five million 600-page catalogues twice a year containing articles ranging in price from less than 25 Pfennigs (odds and ends for electrical equipment) to 100,000 Marks (houses!)

Hamburg's Otto Versand makes do with 1,600,000 catalogues with 900 pages costing 15 Marks to produce. Otto concentrates more on using a tightly-knit web of agents and therefore does not need as many catalogues as its rivals.

The major mail-order firms such as Quelle and Neckermann have not put all their eggs in one basket but also sell their goods through conventional shops. Including shop sales Quelle's trading turnover for 1971 should reach the four-billiard Mark.

Gustav Schickedanz is West Germany's largest producer of hygiene articles and has large interests in breweries. Josef Neckermann' concern now sells so much over the counter that the description of it as a mail-order firm hardly applies statistically.

Neckermann has lucrative sidelines in the NUR travel agency and Neckermann Eigenheim KG.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 19 September 1971)

■ AUTOMOBILES

Mercedes millionth diesel-engined private car rolls off the production line

Daimler-Benz, the oldest motor manufacturer in the world, recently celebrated an uncommon jubilee. At Sindelfingen assembly plant, near Stuttgart, the firm's millionth diesel-engined private car, a Mercedes 200 D saloon, ran off the assembly lines.

The millionth diesel-powered Mercedes is an event worth noting not only in this country. It is a memorable occasion in the world history of an engine that is still a relative newcomer to private cars.

The invention and development of the diesel engine date back to a time when Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz were still designing, building, testing and propagating the first functioning automobiles independently of each other.

Both men developed the petrol engine as a fast propulsion unit for their vehicles. In 1894 the first stationary diesel engine powered by crude oil saw the light of day in Augsburg. Rudolf Diesel and his associates went on to spend years experimenting with the new engine but to begin with, try as they might, it did not come up to scratch as a propulsion unit for motor vehicles.

In 1907 Rudolf Diesel's original patent rights expired. Not only the original development team at MAN in Augsburg but also teams of creative and imaginative engineers at Daimler's in Marienfelde, Berlin, and Benz's in Mannheim and Gaggenau intensified their efforts to iron out the snags that prevented the classic diesel engine from filling the bill.

Thirty years were to pass before the first large-size diesel engine emerged as a suitable propulsion unit for motor vehicles, though.

The first trials of a marketable four-cylinder Benz diesel engine took place on 10 September 1923 in the hills around Gaggenau. The test vehicle was a five-ton lorry.

On 8 February 1924 the first diesel-engined commercial vehicle in the world, a five-ton Benz lorry with a Cardan rear axle, was premiered at the Amsterdam motor show.

Deutsche Shell forecasts car increase will decline by 1975

Stuttgarter Allgemeine

The traffic chaos so often dramatically forecast for the late seventies is a figment of the forecasters' imaginations. From 1975 on the increase in the number of vehicles on the roads of this country will decline perceptibly, according to the results of a survey commissioned by Deutsche Shell.

The increase in the number of motor vehicles, the report concludes, is nearing saturation point faster than is generally supposed.

Between 1970 and 1975 the number of motor vehicles will increase by an estimated 24.7 per cent. Between 1975 and 1980 the increase is expected to be a mere 9.8 per cent and between 1980 and 1985 as little as 4.2 per cent.

In view of the increase in the number of second cars the amount of traffic in terms of mileage per vehicle will increase even more slowly, by 20.5, 6.2 and 0.6 per cent respectively over the same five-year periods.

PUBLIK

This vehicle, the sire of all subsequent diesel-engined automobiles, was hailed by the Press as the most technically significant vehicle of the salon. This first series diesel engine for motor vehicles created a sensation.

A few months later all three manufacturers, Daimler, Benz and MAN, unveiled their diesel prototypes at the December 1924 Berlin motor show. The furthest developed of the three was the model exhibited by Benz of Gaggenau.

Daimler Motoren Gesellschaft and Karl Benz & Cie, Mannheim, joined forces in 1924 and the two firms were finally merged in 1926.

The first major merger in the German and international motor industry 45 years ago laid the groundwork for the swift progress that then ensued. Now that the diesel engine was feasible proposition the new firm set about developing it with a will.

The Daimler-Benz diesel embarked on its triumphant progress. Now that the competition had been brought to an end by the merger the Benz principle was firmly adopted, having proved its superiority by virtue of design simplicity and the straightforward process of combustion.

The Daimler-Benz diesel proved such a success that diesel-powered commercial vehicles went from strength to strength. In the commercial vehicle sector the diesel engine had, as it were, taken over from the conventional combustion engine.

The diesel engine was still a long way off proving satisfactory for private cars, though. It was another twelve years before the first diesel-engined private car saw the light of day.

A 2.6-litre Daimler-Benz, it was pre-

miered at the Berlin motor show in spring 1936 and caused an immediate sensation. The first run of diesel-engined private cars began to roll off the assembly lines in 1937.

In 1948 a smaller model was unveiled. It was powered by a robust four-cylinder diesel engine and relatively inexpensive both to buy and to run.

The success story of this first post-war diesel, the Mercedes-Benz 170 D and its two successors, was outdone by the 180 D introduced in 1954.

The 180 D was not discontinued until autumn 1962, by which time 153,000 units had been manufactured. It was soon joined by a 190 D, a more powerful and faster model that, driven by Karl Kling, won the Algiers to Capetown rally in 1959, averaging 80.6 km/h (fifty miles an hour) over a distance of 14,045 kilometres (8,800 miles).

On 8 April 1965 an improved version of the 190 D was the half millionth diesel to run off the Daimler-Benz assembly lines, the firm now being the world's largest manufacturer of diesel-powered vehicles.

The 750,000-mark was passed in

The caravanning craze continues to grow and grow

For some years people have been used to the idea of the number of caravans increasing. The indications are that numbers will continue to increase.

It is, when all is said and done, common knowledge that a caravan is the key to an annual holiday unhampered by poor weather, firm bookings and set dates.

What is more, shorter holidays and long weekends can be spent on nearby camping sites as though caravanners owned de luxe holiday homes of their own.

The 1972 caravans on show at the tenth international caravan salon in Essen from 9 to 16 October bear eloquent witness to the trend.

Regular campers, families who use their caravans whenever the opportunity arises most if not all of the year round, set great store by as much covered accommodation as possible.

The weather being what it is in this part of the world holidaymakers are bound to spend much of their time indoors and the more room there is in the caravan the better.

In view of the trend major domestic and foreign manufacturers are specialising in larger models that can be towed to the site by private car but when fully assembled are from twenty to 24 feet long.

The superstructure is fully insulated and affords complete protection from the vagaries of the weather, so much as that the new season's caravans could well pass muster as mobile Alpine huts.

They have complete kitchens and washing facilities, plenty of storage space, and unfurnished living section and neatly arranged banks for parents and children.

Ten to twelve thousand Marks for a home on wheels seems a reasonable price to pay.

Yard for yard furnished mobile homes in the 20 to 25 square metre (27 to 33 square yard) category are even better at 8,000 Marks and upwards. These, however, are no longer caravans in that they have to be transported by articulated or low-loader lorry.

November 1968, that January having seen the birth of a new generation of Mercedes diesels, the 200 and 230 D, 105,500 and 210,865 of which respectively have been manufactured.

It has only taken another three years to reach the million-mark and the vehicle, a Mercedes 200 D, has been donated to the TV lottery for charitable purposes.

To this day Daimler-Benz have engaged in intensive research and development in order to ensure that diesel engines keep up to date.

The diesel engine has carved a niche for itself not only in commercial vehicles but also among private cars. Further development, more, especially, of the conventional combustion engine let alone others.

Already diesel-engined cars are the environment's best friend among motor vehicles, a fact that is appreciated only by legislators but also by increasing numbers of customers.

The carbon monoxide content of the exhaust fumes is only a tenth and the nitrous oxide content only half of comparable figures for conventional powered cars.

Virtually indestructible, the diesel engine is thus sitting pretty. It is unaffected by clean exhaust regulations as part of the environmental protection drive. Only alterations to the design of the diesel engine will not be needed for many years to come in this respect. *WILL WIEZANSKI (Publik, 17 September 1971)*

RAILWAYS

Bundesbahn introduces inter-city expresses linking 33 cities in this country

As the winter timetables come into force Deutsche Bundesbahn, the German Federal Railways, feel better equipped to meet the challenge of fiercer competition for long-distance passenger traffic between air, road and rail transport.

On 26 September the inter-city express network got off to a flying start. First-class services now link 33 cities in major industrial areas all over the country up to eight times a day.

Herr Ruckel, director of services at Bundesbahn headquarters, reckons the inter-city network is a superb system covering 2,400 miles of permanent way.

At a mobile press conference held in Frankfurt to Mannheim on 15 September Herr Ruckel noted that this was the first attempt in the world to run regular rail services over long distances at hourly intervals.

Even in the more distant future, he felt, transport would not be able to match the network or the coverage. He described the new, comfortable express carriages as the cat's whiskers.

In order to ensure regular two-hourly services between seven in the morning and eleven at night the inter-city network will use not only the existing sixty Trans-Europe and long-distance expresses but also a further forty first-class trains.

A hundred and thirty new carriages have been bought at half a million Marks each, not to mention sixty 103 class locomotives costing nearly three million Marks each. Starting next spring inter-city

trains will be a distinctive, uniform cream-red.

On four main routes the services cover to all intents and purposes the existing long-distance sections between Hamburg and Bremen on the one hand and Munich and Basel on the other.

The timetables, however, have been so arranged that where the four lines meet, at Cologne, Dortmund, Hanover and Mannheim, connections are available, and additional connections (to and from Nuremberg, say) at Augsburg.

As a rule passengers need only to cross the platform to change trains. Seat bookings can be transferred from one train to another, carriages being provided for this express purpose.

Inter-city trains cost eight Marks over and above the normal first-class fare. A return ticket from Hamburg to Munich costs 211 Marks. The present air fare is 340 Marks.

The Bundesbahn makes no bones about the fact that their new network, which incidentally involves only half a per cent of the 19,000-odd daily services, is particularly aimed at businessmen, who in the past have preferred to travel by car because of the long waiting-periods that slow down rail travel.

It is especially hoped that rail travel will now prove a more attractive proposition over distances of more than 300 miles, which at present, Ruckel admits, "air transport has pretty well taped."

Bundesbahn planners hope that regular two-hourly services will boost overall

takings, particularly as first-class travel is on the increase (sales of first-class tickets increased by fourteen per cent last year). Comfort and conveniences are to be improved accordingly. Inter-city trains have roomier, air-conditioned compartments, telephones and secretarial facilities.

"A special public," Rolf Ruckel says, "requires special facilities. We are no snobs but we do realise that improved comfort only really appeals to a certain section of the travelling public starting at, say, the middle class."

Lufthansa reduces trans-Atlantic fares

For years the North Atlantic run has been the airlines' No. 1 money-spinner. Fare agreements have gone by the board now that charter travel has knocked the bottom out of the market, however.

At present there are no fewer than 52 different fares for tourist travel between the Old World and the New.

Improbable thought it may sound this collapse of the international air fares system is partly due to the changes in US policy on Vietnam.

The enormous air fleets that used to shuttle troops to and fro between America and South-East Asia are now at a loose end and out to corner a share of the tourist market.

This is why there is no intention of providing inter-city trains with second-class compartments. The reason officially given is that the trains would then be too heavy and too slow.

For the time being, though, inter-city trains do not cut travelling time. There are no immediate plans to travel at a maximum speed of more than 100 miles an hour, a speed reached by the Reichsbahn's Flying Hamburger in 1933, incidentally.

Safety first, railway officials say, and aim to keep inter-city trains on the move at speeds of between sixty and 75 miles an hour.

In the course of 1972 the sections of permanent way between Nannhofen, Munich, and Donaauwörth and Langenhagen, Hanover and Uelzen are to be improved to cater for speeds of up to 125 miles an hour and travelling time will be shortened from 1973 on.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 September 1971)

This process is comparable to post-war developments in world shipping when the US Liberty ships built during the war for military transport purposes were for the most part sold off to private bidders.

Lufthansa have now decided to act, cutting fares and ending the jumble of different rates and the exodus to charter travel.

This country's national airline reckons the days are over when the situation could be concealed by air fare stratagems. This is no doubt the case.

Unusual though this decision by Lufthansa to go it alone may be, sooner or later the other major operators will have to follow suit.

Arnold Gehlen
(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 16 September 1971)

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DIE WELT's editorial content has won for it acclaim all over the world as an authoritative voice of West Germany. Its circulation and readership indicate the paper's influence. The only West German newspaper mentioned in a recent series of articles on sixteen leading world newspapers in The Times, London, was DIE WELT. In 1967 DIE WELT was awarded a medal of honour for outstanding journalistic achievement by the Faculty of Journalism at the University of Columbia (Mo.).

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Ten millionth Opel rolls off the assembly lines

On 6 September the ten millionth Opel rolled off the assembly lines at the Rüsselsheim works, Frankfurt. Seventy-two years separate the first and the ten millionth Opel.

The first million was clocked up in 1940 and had thus taken 42 years to manufacture. The tenth million took less than a year and a half to produce.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 7 September 1971)

FASHION

Hellmuth Palm discusses the operations of the West German Fashion Institute

Fashion," said Hellmuth Palm, president of the West German Fashion Institute, "was once an expensive game for the rich. Now it has become of interest to all." He was discussing the functions and aims of fashion.

This would sound euphemistic if it were not known that the speaker has had considerable experience in presenting the latest fashions to the public, fashions that are one day luxury items and then the next consumer goods available anywhere.

Rapid industrialisation and the production line, the break up of the authoritarian structure of society and 25 years of prosperity have brought fashion's traditions into question. Nevertheless it seems that the change of position has come easily. The truth probably is that fashion has made use of its natural gift of quick-change particularly when it is a question of the structure of the fashion world.

Hellmuth Palm is firmly convinced that consumers give the lead to fashion today. "The manufacturer must take the consumer's demands into consideration, but this does not mean that he must uncritically accept all the demands of our pluralistic society." Goods offered arouse needs. But needs, the desire to own something, promotes product ideas.

This can be kept in check so that rational products are available. But this can also be eased on the public without the public crying that manufacturers are terrorising them.

Hellmuth Palm maintains: "An appetite is often only found after the food is prepared." And he defends with all his might the time-honoured industrial aim of satisfying elementary needs, to take home clothes that satisfy one's sense of taste.

Only those who are able to satisfy these needs can operate in normal economic conditions with success.

The West German rag trade employs 150,000 workers in 1,500 firms that operate 2,500 factories. In 1970 the turnover for the industry was 5.5 milliard Marks.

More than 55 per cent of all women's overcoats and fifty per cent of all children's coats worn in Europe were manufactured in the Federal Republic. These figures give the word *fashion* a totally different meaning. The West German Fashion Institute thus operates on a very solid trading basis.

Foundation

The West German Fashion Institute (DMI) was founded in 1954 to provide a neutral ground for the industry, for trade and for the press. The institute's aims are to soften the risks that beset the rag trade and to aid the trade to avoid the more obvious pitfalls.

"The institute does not possess any surefire answer for success in the rag trade," president Palm deprecatingly maintains. "We try to make the fashion world creditable to the public at large and to make it attractive to consumers."

The institute is no competitor to other organisations in the rag trade and has no influence on the question of prices. Hellmuth Palm comments: "Prices remain the decision of manufacturers and they must remain so."

Hellmuth Palm has been the DMI chief for ten years, supported by a committee that sits with representatives from all the major manufacturers - from producers of

raw materials to cloth manufacturers and producers of ready-made clothing.

Three groups operate to sound things out. There is 'Farbe' led by Hellmuth Palm, then 'Mode Silhouette, Stoffstrukturen' headed by the famous couturier from Krefeld, Werner Lauer, and finally 'Information' that is led by Helmut Gilbert.

For eighteen months at a time between 80 and 100 representatives from all branches of the rag trade serve in these groups. Twice a year they prepare colour samples and models of ready-made clothes and organise fashion shows for the textiles industry and for the specialist press. All this costs money. Subscriptions are paid by members of the Fashion Institute to cover these expenses.

"We can only give sustained help to the ready-made clothing trade and the trade in general if we do not have to work in a vacuum in this country," Hellmuth Palm explains.

Season's colours

Hellmuth Palm is a member of the international organisation Centre d'Information et de la Couleur with headquarters in Paris. Sixteen other countries belong to this organisation including America and Japan. At this organisation the colours for the coming fashion season are laid down.

Members of the rag trade are able to swap ideas on fashion trends twice a year with colleagues from all over the world at the *Comité International de Liaison des Industries de Vêtement Féminin* in Paris. In this way women in West Germany and France, America and Italy are assured of learning what is going on in the fashion world.

West Germany's opinions at these get-togethers are listened to carefully, for, according to Hellmuth Palm, this country's rag trade has a first-rate organisation, is modern and well managed and is one of the leaders in Europe.

Nevertheless the DMI finds itself in the position of the cook who is asked to prepare a meal without actually knowing if the guests have an appetite. "Who knows what German women will want to wear in six months' time?" Hellmuth Palm comments. Herr Palm shrugs his shoulders and is not entirely without some ideas.

Trends take place with a certain amount of planning, but the word planning does not go comfortably together with the idea of fashion. The word is connected with the more reviled areas of fashion direction. Where, if there is planning, is there room for creative activity, for direct creative initiatives?

Hellmuth Palm comments: "Individual creativity is not lost altogether. It remains as ever, in the hands of gifted couturiers. We cannot give up all claim to their influence."

Statistical market research aids fashion creators at the beginning of every season. Consumer spending is considered, the progress made in the development of new materials and the experiences gained with using these materials. Sociological as well as psychological factors are taken into account as well as empirical basics such as the exploitation of taste.

"Taking these provisions into consideration it is possible to bring about a relatively successful marketing operation," Hellmuth Palm points out. He continues: "Nevertheless it is sometimes necessary to put these suggestions aside,

namely when the consumer arrives at the point when she considers that the goods offered are false, perhaps because the time is not ripe to present the goods on the market or perhaps because influences have appeared that have not been taken into account." An example of this is the midi which has not yet replaced the mini, which all supposed it would do.

It can however happen that in grand-mother's junk shop, or in the flea market, or in a bestseller or a popular film or in the promotion of a popular singer a fashion can be presented that overnight becomes a hit on the streets. The rag trade is taken by surprise, completely unprepared for this trend and must, in this case, follow the lead given by youth. Just as quickly a fashion can disappear as it has appeared - often before it has become commercially viable.

But the rag trade sometimes gets to know of these possible developments in time, particularly if fashion has been influenced for some time by certain trends. The problem here is, according to Hellmuth Palm when a long-term trend is confused with a here-today hit.

In order to be able to recognise these potential "shooting-stars" and to incorporate these developments with the fashion of the season the West German Fashion Institute has recently set up in Krefeld a "Modesekretariat", headed by Leo Haerten, a well-known fashion expert.

Informants throughout the world pass on observations made of what women are wearing, to the Krefeld organisation. These observations and comments are evaluated and then passed on to possible interested quarters in this country.

But the DMI's work does not stop at discerning the trends and forecasting future developments. The consumer demands of women have in recent years basically changed, a problem that is a continuous theme of discussion at Institute conferences.

Fifteen million of the 25 million women in this country dress conservatively, according to a Marplan survey. They favour comfortable and sportingly elegant clothes. Only 2.3 million women could be considered avantgarde, ready to accept immediately the latest fashion ideas. This last statistic is of considerable interest to the rag trade and has not gone unnoticed. The DMI strives to arrange this vertical division into a horizontal division, so that shops can offer to all groups fashions they want to buy.

Hellmuth Palm explains: "Group con-

formity has taken the place of conformity. Attitudes to life, one's of oneself, temperament, job, figure, type all play a critical role in a woman's choice of clothes." These factors make the so-called "Zielgruppe", target group.

The rag trade must offer a variety of articles in order to please the consumer. It is a difficult matter to present personality in the clothes one wears. Because of this the ready-made clothing industry must offer clothes in various fashions, in various lengths but not forgetting completely the general fashion line.

"Age only plays a relatively small role in fashion. These days there is neither fashion for the matron nor a fashion for the teenager," Hellmuth Palm comments. According to Herr Palm modern fashion is a question of attitude.

"Fashion has gone young without doubt," he said. "Youth today has strong influence on fashion. This was so previously. The older generation once. But a difference must be made between the young look, the look of you youth, and teenage wear." Teen wear is only a small division of fashion idea that could be called a young look.

Fashions for the coming spring-summer seasons have already been decided by the design studios and mannequins tried out the creations. The line is logical continuation of winter fashion.

The West German Fashion Institute sends out to the rag trade circulars with details of the new fashions. To the circulars tables are attached in which various materials are endorsed with two or three crosses - notice to the industry of the strength of the endorsement. These are divided into conservative and avantgarde.

Conservative clothes

The DMI expects there to be increased interest in conservative clothes such as Shelland clothes and tweeds as well as crêpe de chine. The move towards "parates", a jacket or a blouse to go with skirt or trousers will increase in pressure. Colours are dominated by what is called "colour joy" and it seems the bright colours are still going to hold the centre of the stage.

Hellmuth Palm is of the view that fresh colours will replace the rather drab colours of last season. These colours could only possibly find favour among the young, because of their tendency to make a woman look older. He said: "There is no doubt that women are already prepared for this colour change in fashions. It would be hopeless to change fashion trend if there was not the need for it among consumers." *Giada Thier* (Die Welt, 18 September 1971)

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SPORT

International Olympics Committee meets in Luxembourg to iron out problems

Anyone knows that when Zeus was angry he bombarded Mankind with hailstorms. Mankind, or at least that bit of it that was conversant with Greek mythology, was afraid and did not make a sigh of relief until the clouds cleared from the summit of Mount Olympus.

Thunder and lightning on Mount Olympus these days is, if anything, a little on the public side. The lightning flashes of the stormy past are now viewed calmly as indications of bad weather.

The 1st session of the International Olympic Committee in Luxembourg was, on the other hand, an occasion for lightning flashes of the old kind.

IOC President Avery Brundage, 84, bumbled grumpily into the microphone, European Communists and African nationalists carried out their ritual duties, as if, with little enthusiasm and every- one present chewed over the age-old problems, looking not a little long in the tooth themselves for the most part.

This gathering of worthies is the highest-ranking authority in the world of sport. Its moral viewpoint is so pure and free from doubt that the distance between it and this vale of sorrows is almost frightening.

Comparison with the United Nations is almost a matter of course. The IOC is an imposing gathering of men of the highest rank, a legislative with two doormen as its executive.

Were the IOC ever to consider or have to wage war on its own behalf one would feel bound to ask Stalin's question of the Natsion - How many divisions does the IOC have?

It has none. The IOC, Mr Brundage growled in Luxembourg, nevertheless intends in future not only to penalise individual offenders against the amateur rule. It also proposes to penalise National Olympic Committees.

How it proposed to go about this was not mentioned, though.

Zeiss develops electronic measuring device

It has always been a time-wasting problem at athletics meetings to measure out the distances in field events such as javelin, discus and hammer-throwing. This is a task for which Zeiss of Oberkochen have now developed an electronic measuring device, the Reg Elta 14 tachymeter.

The adjudicator marks the spot where the javelin etc. lands, using a prismatic reflector. An observer at the side of the field trains a telescope on the marker.

All that is then needed is a push on the tachymeter button. The tachymeter measures the distance, records it on magnetic tape and relays it to the electronic screen in a fraction of a second. Greater speed is hardly conceivable.

(Handelsblatt, 24 September 1971)

The IOC intends to combat groupings of, say, Africans and Communists, Mr Brundage thundered. The representatives of the countries concerned looked him calmly in the eye. Being a member of the IOC is one thing; being a German, a Korean, a Chinese or a Russian is another.

Members of the International Olympic Committee, Mr Brundage noted, were there to advocate the ideals of the Olympic movement and nothing else. To nudge these ideals, let alone to attempt to revise them, amounts to blasphemy in the president's eyes.

The old man has often been cursed for being obtuse and stubborn and the IOC has frequently been decried as a gathering of feeble old men. Neither accusation is true.

Avery Brundage is intelligent, witty, admirably robust and head and shoulders above most of his colleagues. They too are no longer so old that it is worthwhile adding their ages to see whether the total in years reaches 5,000 or not.

What worries Mr Brundage and most members of the IOC is that the slightest concession on Olympic regulations, the amateur status or commercialisation of

sport such as allowing brand names to adorn kit might well call the entire movement into question.

The present state of affairs at least allows the men responsible to retain their fig-leaf. The socialist countries have invented the state-sponsored amateur and the Americans have been giving their amateurs university appointments and scholarships for decades.

This country has launched the Sports Aid Foundation, an organisation that gives promising athletes grants and so creates a category of young athletic pensioners, as it were. The IOC has come to realise that this at least must be countenanced and has indeed accepted this state of affairs.

Were the ideals of the Olympic movement to be reviewed the operation would not be performed under the leadership of Mr Brundage, who is to retire next year. And none of his likely successors would appear to be of the stuff to do so either.

Maybe this is a task to be tackled by the generation that next year will still be participating in an Olympics subject to prehistoric rules and regulations.

A few words from cycling coach Rudi Altig

Rudi Altig, the country's best-known racing cyclist, is to train the amateurs for 1972. An ex-professional from Mannheim, Altig made a name for himself in the Tour de France, the world's most popular international cycling event, after starting his professional career as the reigning amateur world pursuit champion. He is now on the staff of the Düsseldorf sporting news agency Sport-Informationen Dienst. As the national coach he is to work in conjunction with Karl Ziegler, the trainer who first discovered him. Rudi Altig, speaking from his Cologne home, discusses his appointment.

In recent weeks I have been asked at least half a dozen times a day what interests me so much about coaching this country's amateur road racers.

There is a simple answer. I do not feel our amateurs to be weaker than the Italians, Belgians, French and so on. They are just as good as their opposite numbers in other countries.

It is merely a matter of how promising youngsters are promoted and how we set about coaching them.

That is why I am keen on coaching them and why, after a little thought, I agreed more than a year ago when Josef Neckermann of the Sports Aid Foundation asked me whether I would be prepared to take the job on.

Unfortunately nothing came of the idea on that occasion and a valuable year has been wasted.

Meanwhile I have made contact with our best men on the Tour of the Rhineland-Palatinate and at the road-racing world championships in Mendrisio.

Two points struck me. It was extremely gratifying to see how enthusiastic most of them are. Many cycling amateurs are born full of eagerness to beat the other man.

Unfortunately this will to win is mostly thrown overboard because the amateurs make their breaks at the wrong moment and often compete with each other.

This was alarmingly evident during the Palatinate tour, especially on the second day. It was, of course, none of my business because I was in a Press car but when I saw how our youngsters were racing each other to the benefit of foreign competitors I jumped out and gave them a piece of my mind.

I am convinced that on the basis of my own experience I can give our boys many a useful hint in this respect. Good tactical advice is particularly important in road-racing.

I would, however, like to emphasise that I am not a miracle-worker. I cannot be expected to clinch Olympic medals in Munich in only half a year's work. Miracles seldom happen.

I have made it quite clear to leading officials of the cycling association that I am only prepared to take on the job in conjunction with coach Karl Ziegler.

We have known one another for more than fifteen years and used to be a good team. It has nothing to do with being grateful or not hurting people's feelings. I know for a fact that I will get on well with Ziegler.

I know no better man in cycling where theory is concerned. My job will be to assist him on the practical side. I am convinced that we will get on well together. (Die Welt, 22 September 1971) (Photo: Sven Simon)

The man who reforms the Olympic movement, whoever he may be, will not be another Brundage but he will certainly have to share one characteristic with the Chicago millionaire. He must have will-power, character and the old man's mastery of the IOC.

"You will have to stick me for another year," the patriarch announced with grim humour in Luxembourg. It will be a year in which he will be casting many a thunderbolt.

He is far too intelligent not to realise that many of his thunderbolts are not taken as seriously as they used to be but the magnificent way in which he over-looks the fact is a truly Olympic feat.

Horst Vetter

(Die Zeit, 24 September 1971)

First supporters' club founded

Club 96, a supporters' club that aims to help Hanover's Federal league football club, is to hold practical tests on the field of play for football supporters.

The idea is to demonstrate to the fans how difficult it often is to carry out certain moves in the game when the referee is regularly blowing his whistle.

Participants in the trials of dribbling, penalty kicks, long shots, long throw-ins, heading and juggling with the ball will be awarded "supporters' certificates."

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung)

Nr Deutschland, 18 September 1971)



Algeria	SA \$ 0.05	Colombia	col. \$ 1.-	Formosa	NT \$ 2.-	Indonesia	Rp. 15.-	Malawi	M. \$ 0.40	Paraguay	G. 15.-	Sudan	PT \$ 5.-
Angola	AF 10.-	Congo (Brazzaville)	F.C.F.A. 30.-	France	FF 6.50	Iran	Ri 10.-	Malaysia	M. \$ 0.40	Peru	S. 1.50	Syria	\$ 5.50
Argentina	DA 0.60	Congo (Kinshasa)	Makuta 7.-	Germany	DM 1.-	Iraq	Q 1.50	Mali	FM 60.-	Philippines	P. phil. 0.60	Tanzania	EA \$ 0.25
Australia	A\$ 1.-	Costa Rica	C. 0.85	Ghana	G 0.15	Ireland	Ir 1.00	Mexico	M. \$ 1.50	Poland	PL 1.50	Thailand	B 2.-
Austria	S 3.-	Cyprus	P 0.12	Great Britain	£ 1.-	Israel	Is 1.00	Morocco	DM - 85	Portugal	Esc. 1.-	Trinidad and Tobago	TT \$ 0.20
Bahamas	B\$ 1.00	Dahomey	F.C.F.A. 30.-	Guatemala	GT 0.15	Italy	Li. 80	Mozambique	Esc. 1.-	Rhodesia	R. 1.50	Uganda	UG 0.25
Bangladesh	Tk 10.-	Dem. Rep.	RD 0.15	Haiti	H 0.15	Jamaica	J 0.15	Nepal	N. 1.-	Romania	R. 1.50	Uruguay	U\$ 0.25
Barbados	B\$ 1.00	Dominican Rep.	RD 0.15	Honduras	H 0.15	Kenya	K 0.15	Netherlands	fl. 1.50	Saudi Arabia	S. 1.50	USA	\$ 1.00
Belize	B\$ 1.00	Ecuador	E 0.15	Hong Kong	HK \$ 0.15	Kuwait	K 0.15	Netherlands Antilles	fl. 1.50	Senegal	S. 1.50	USSR	Rbl. 0.10
Bermuda	B\$ 1.00	El Salvador	E 0.15	Hungary	H 0.15	Laos	L 0.15	New Zealand	NZ \$ 0.15	Sierra Leone	S. 1.50	Venezuela	B 0.60
Bhutan	B\$ 1.00	Ethiopia	E 0.15	India	Rs 0.80	Lebanon	L 0.15	Nicaragua	C 0.85	South Africa	Rand 0.10	Yugoslavia	Din. 1.-
Bolivia	B\$ 1.00	Fiji	F 0.15	Indonesia	Rp. 15.-	Libya	L 0.15	Niger	N. 1.-	South Korea	Won 25	Zambia	11 d
Brazil	R 4.00	Finland	fmk 0.50	Israel	Is 1.00	Luxembourg	L 0.15	Nigeria	N. 1.-	Sri Lanka	Rs 0.50		
Bulgaria	B 0.15	France	FF 6.50	Italy	Li. 80	Madagascar	M 0.15	Norway	Nkr 0.80	Taiwan	N. 1.-		
Burkina Faso	B 0.15	Germany	DM 1.-	Jamaica	J 0.15			Pakistan	Pk 0.15	Thailand	B 2.-		
Burundi	B 0.15	Ghana	G 0.15	Kenya	K 0.15			Panama	P 0.15	Trinidad and Tobago	TT \$ 0.20		
Cambodia	R 4.00	Guatemala	GT 0.15	Kuwait	K 0.15					Uganda	UG 0.25		
Cameroon	C 0.15	Haiti	H 0.15	Laos	L 0.15					Uruguay	U\$ 0.25		
Canada	C\$ 1.00	Honduras	H 0.15	Lebanon	L 0.15					USA	\$ 1.00		
Cape Verde	C\$ 1.00	Hong Kong	HK \$ 0.15	Libya	L 0.15					USSR	Rbl. 0.10		
Cayman	C\$ 1.00	Hungary	H 0.15	Luxembourg	L 0.15					Venezuela	B 0.60		
Chad	C\$ 1.00	India	Rs 0.80	Madagascar	M 0.15					Yugoslavia	Din. 1.-		
Chile	Ch 0.50	Indonesia	Rp. 15.-							Zambia	11 d		